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Name 56 U.S. spies in Britain

LONDON [Reuters]—A new disclosure of alleged American intelligence agents has reopened the controversy over the practice of exposures and provided a headache for United States Ambassador Anne Armstrong on her first day in the post.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said Mrs. Armstrong was briefed on the reports shortly after arriving from the U. S. Wednesday night. But he said he would have "no comment on this kind of story."

He was speaking after the small Trotskyist publication, Red Weekly, printed what it claimed was the most complete roster yet of U.S. intelligence employees in a single foreign country. It listed the names of 56 purported agents in Britain along with home addresses, office numbers, and phone extensions.

TEN OF THOSE named were said to report to the National Security Agency, a unit of the Defense Department that has been described as the most secret of all known American intelligence organizations.

The others were mostly names not previously published, including some purported CIA employees sent to replace others who were exposed.

The newspaper said it obtained its information from sources inside the embassy.

A RASH OF such exposures in Europe earlier this year led to an international controversy following the shooting in Athens of Richard Welch, who was identified as a senior CIA agent in Greece.